



HF Happenings



South African Radio League * Suid-Afrikaanse Radioliga
Member Society of the International Amateur Radio Union since 1925
www.sarl.org.za www.iaru.org www.iaru-r1.org

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November 2014

My DX Summit launches today

The new-fangled My DX Summit (MDXS) opened to the public at 10:00 UTC on 21 November 2014.

MDXS introduces a fresh line-up of features with a handy propagation tool as a real revelation. Predicted propagation is based on your personal location, and by clicking a DX spot, you will see the current conditions and a 24-hour window covering all bands from your station, short and long path, to a distant DX location.

This recent face-lift makes several new functions readily available, assuring a pleasant user experience. Mobile users are also extensively supported which makes MDXS the first-ever mobile-ready DX Cluster. My DX Summit will automatically replace the current DX Summit at www.dxsummit.fi/

Originally switched on in 1998, DX Summit introduced something that had not been seen before. To quote Yasme President Ward Silver, NOAX who presented the Yasme Foundation, www.yasme.org, Excellence Award to the Finns: They basically created a tool that fundamentally changed the nature of HF operating.

Now the upgraded version introduces an easy-to-use propagation forecast tool that enhances knowledge of the behaviour of radio waves in a manner that many other spectrum users just watch speechless.

"Plans are developing to integrate My DX Summit into the Navassa Island, K1N, DXpedition. A true trial by fire..." said Ralph Fedor, KOIR, one of the Navassa team.

Radio Arcala transferred My DX Summit to Kynnel Ltd of Oulu, Finland who in turn employed full-time software specialists to finish this phase and to look into the endless application opportunities that this new software platform can facilitate. We at Radio Arcala wish to thank the more than 500 individuals who were our test partners and provided exciting ideas for our future endeavours to make MDXS a DX knowledge centre of the future. Currently some 135 000 unique users visit DX Summit monthly for an average of 55 minutes during each session but the number is expected to rise sharply, following the launch.

Ken Claerbout, K4ZW will host a Webinar in early December in honour of this newly born portal with Radio Arcala specialists ready to explain the essence of My DX Summit and its propagation prediction tools and their use in Amateur Radio. Additionally, Santa Claus will appear on the MDXS portal in December before embarking on his world tour from the frozen landscape of the North.

Join the launch festivities by sending a maximum number of spots during the first 14 days; Santa Claus, bringing his certificate from the OHo-Ho-Ho land of Radio Arcala, OH8X, will visit three (3) winners.



ZS9YOTA in December

During the entire month of December, stations in several countries will be on the air seeking contacts using "YOTA" as their call sign suffix. Youth on the Air (YOTA) is growing fast and every week more youngsters are

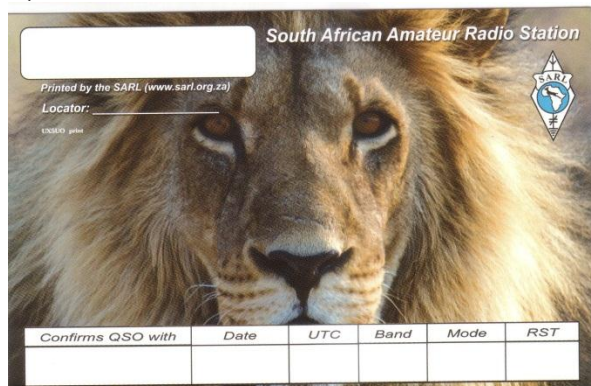
asking to participate. By making YOTA popular, we can all help to get youngsters active in amateur radio. YOTA stations will be trying to make many contacts, so take this opportunity to connect young amateurs in their teens and 20s with their peers on the air

The South African Radio League has been granted a special call sign, ZS9YOTA, to be used by young amateurs during YOTA month from 1 to 31 December 2014. It will be the first worldwide YOTA event.

If you are 25 years old or younger, you are invited to apply to use the special call sign either as an individual or as a club station operated by young people.

Send your request to Nico van Rensburg, ZS6QL, at zs6ql@mweb.co.za.

Slots will be allocated on a first come, first served basis. Allocated slots will be shown on www.hamradio.org.za where you will find lot of other interesting information about YOTA 2014. When returning your ZS9YOTA log, include a photograph of yourself operating your station, it may be used on the special QSL card.



QSLing is the final courtesy of a QSO

The South African Radio League has produced a generic QSL card, which you can personalise by writing in your own call sign. The cards are available in batches of 100 at R50 per batch, including postage. To order, pay in the amount for the required number of QSL cards into the SARL account.

Account details: ABSA account no 407 158 8849, branch code 632 005. Send details of the delivery address and proof of payment to zs6wwj@gmail.com.

November

1 – RTA in Cape Town; RaDAR Contest; Winterton Street Festival

1 and 2 – Cape Town International Kite Festival

5 to 8 – Delmas Christmas Market

9 – Remembrance Sunday; PEARS HF Contest

11 – Armistice Day/Remembrance Day

15 and 16 – SARL National Field Day; SARL VHF/UHF Contest

20 to 22 – Cherry Festival and Cherry 23 km Race, Ficksburg

29 – Sappi BirdLife Birding Big Day

29 and 30 – CQ WW DX CW Contest

December

3 – Day of Persons with Disabilities

6 – SARL Digital Contest

10 – Schools close

12 to 23 – 2014 Senior Scout Adventure, Cedarberg

13 and 14 – ARRL 10 Metre Contest

16 – Day of Reconciliation

24 – Christmas Eve

25 – Christmas Day

26 – Family Day

27 and 28 – Iron Ham Contest

31 – 2014 CQ Marathon ends; Old Year's Eve

The 5 MHz Newsletter Autumn 2014

The latest edition of The 5 MHz Newsletter is now available for free download from <http://tinyurl.com/jvjrt6>. The Autumn 2014 edition, No 12, features a number of stories, including Dominica on 5 MHz, several items on WRC15, South African beacon changes and NVIS observations, Ofcom's UK Amateur Licence Consultation, is it getting noisier on 5 MHz?, new webSDRs covering the band and GB2RS on 5 MHz.

New Digital Mode App EXChat

Con Wassilieff, ZL2AFP, has developed a sentence-mode radio chat system that works like phone texting! This is a computer program for Amateur Radio transmission and reception using a computer and radio transceiver. The program equips your computer with a one sentence at a time chat-mode for operation on the HF bands. You use it in the same way as you would Skype™ or cell phone texting. This

facilitates rapid-fire QSOs and especially makes nets easier.

As usual, sound card techniques are used to generate transmissions using tones at audio frequency, and to receive and decode the incoming signals at audio frequency. An SSB transceiver translates these signals to and from the HF Amateur Bands.

The EXChat mode is a development of DominoEX, and is completely compatible with other DominoEX versions. In fact, operators without EXChat, but who have another version of DominoEX, can take part in a QSO, if in a slightly clumsy manner. What is different about EXChat is that it operates in Sentence Mode.

Read more about EXChat and download it from www.qsl.net/zl1bpu/MFSK/EXChat.htm

African Islands



IOTA frequencies

CW: 28 040 24 920 21 040 18 098 14 040 10 114 7 030 3 530 kHz

SSB: 28 560 28 460 24 950 21 260 18 128 14 260 7 055 3 760 kHz

African DX



3V, Tunisia. Ashraf, KF5EYY (member of the "Radio Club of Tunisian Scouts") will sign 3V8SS in the CQ WW CW, SOSB LP 15 m. QSL via LX1NO. <http://www.kf5eyy.info/>

ZS, South Africa. Bernie, ZS4TX, plans a 15 m single-band effort for the CQ WW DX CQ contest. QSL via LoTW preferred. He reports that direct mail is currently an unsafe option.



ET, Ethiopia. Ulli, DL9WVM, is currently active until 9 December as ET3AA. He is active on HF on CW. For QSL information, see qrz.com.



V5, Namibia. Win, DK9IP, is in Omaruru (WW Loc. JG78xo, V51W's QTH) between 26 November and 3 December. His focus will be on an all-band high power effort as V55V for the CQ WW DX CW contest. Before and after the contest he will be active as V5/DK9IP on 160 to 10 m on CW and RTTY, 6 m operation will depend on conditions. QSL V55V via DJ8VC (direct or via the Bureau), V5/DK9IP via DK9IP (direct or via the Bureau). Both logs will be uploaded to LoTW.

Contest Calendar

This week's contests compiled by Bruce Horn, WA7BNM. The period covered is 24 November to 1 December 2014

QRP ARCI Topband Sprint

00:00 - 06:00 UTC 27 November

Mode: CW, SSB

Bands: 160 m Only

Classes: CW Only; SSB Only; Mixed

Max operating hours: 6 hours

Exchange: ARCI: RST, state, province or country and ARCI no; non-ARCI: RST, state, province or country and power out

Work stations: Once regardless of mode

QSO Points: ARCI Member: 5 points; Non-Member Different Continent: 4 points; Non-Member Same Continent: 2 points

Multipliers: States, once regardless of mode; VE Provinces, once regardless of mode; Countries, once regardless of mode

CW Power Mult: x 1 >5 W, x 7 1 - 5 W, x 10 250 mW - 1 W, x 15 55 - 250 mW, x 20 <55 mW; SSB Power Mult: x 1 >10 W, x 7 2- 10 W, x 10 500 mW - 2 W, x 15 100 - 500 mW, x 20 <55 mW

Mixed Power Mult: smaller of CW or SSB power multiplier

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x (state mults and province mults and country mults) x power mult

Submit logs by: 14 December 2014

E-mail logs to: contest@qrparci.org

Mail logs to: ARCI Top Band Sprint, c/o Jeff Hetherington, VA3JFF, 139 Elizabeth St. W., Welland, Ontario L3C 4M3, Canada

Find rules at:

<http://www.qrparci.org/contests/qrparci-contests/138-topbandsprint>

RSGB 80 m Club Sprint, CW

20:00 - 21:00 UTC 27 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 80 m Only

Classes: 100 W; 10 W

Exchange: other station's call, your call, serial no and your name

QSO Points: 1 point per QSO

Multipliers: (none)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points

Submit logs by: 4 December 2014

Upload log at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/cgi-bin/hfenter.pl>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.rsgbcc.org/hf/rules/2014/rsprint.shtml>

NCCC RTTY Sprint

01:45 - 02:15 UTC 28 November

Mode: RTTY

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 November 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rTTYns.html>

NCCC Sprint

02:30 - 03:00 UTC 28 November

Mode: (see rules)

Bands: (see rules)

Classes: (none)

Exchange: (see rules)

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 30 November 2014

E-mail logs to: (none)

Post log summary at:

<http://www.3830scores.com/>

Mail logs to: (none)

Find rules at:

<http://www.ncccsprint.com/rules.html>

CQ Worldwide DX CW Contest

00:00 UTC 29 November to 24:00 UTC 30 November

Mode: CW

Bands: 160, 80, 40, 20, 15, 10 m

Classes: Single Op All Band - QRP, low or high - option: classic or rookie; Single Op Single Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted All Band - QRP, low or high; Single Op Assisted Single Band - QRP, low or high; Multi-Single; Multi-Two; Multi-Multi

Max power: HP: 1 500 watts; LP: 100 watts; QRP: 5 watts

Exchange: RST and CQ Zone no

Work stations: Once per band

QSO Points: 0 points per QSO with same country (counts as mult); 1 point per QSO with different country same continent; 2 points per QSO with different country same continent (NA); 3 points per QSO with different continent

Multipliers: Each CQ zone once per band; Each country once per band

Score Calculation: Total score = total QSO points x total mults

Submit logs by: 23:59 UTC 5 December 2014

E-mail logs to: cw@cqww.com

Upload log at:

<http://www.cqww.com/logcheck/>

Web-to-Cabrillo form:

http://www.b4h.net/cabforms/cqwwcw_cab.php

Mail logs to: Paper Logs, Box 481, New Carlisle, OH 45344, USA

Find rules at: <http://www.cqww.com/rules.htm>

Next Week's Contests

ARS Spartan Sprint, 02:00 - 04:00 UTC 2 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 3 December

CWops Mini-CWT Test, 13:00 - 14:00 UTC 3 December 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 3 December 03:00 - 04:00 UTC 4 December

NRAU 10 m Activity Contest, 18:00 - 19:00 UTC 4 December (CW) 19:00 - 20:00 UTC 4 December (SSB) 20:00 - 21:00 UTC 4 December (FM) 21:00 - 22:00 UTC 4 December (Dig) NCCC RTTY Sprint, 01:45 - 02:15 UTC 5 December

QRP Fox Hunt, 02:00 - 03:30 UTC 5 December

NCCC Sprint, 02:30 - 03:00 UTC 5 December

ARRL 160-Metre Contest, 22:00 UTC 5 December to 16:00 UTC 7 December

TARA RTTY Melee, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 6 December

Wake-Up! QRP Sprint, 06:00 - 06:29 UTC, 06:30 - 06:59 UTC, 07:00 - 07:29 UTC and 07:30 - 08:00 UTC 6 December

VU International DX Contest, 12:00 UTC 6 December to 12:00 UTC 7 December

TOPS Activity Contest, 16:00 UTC 6 December to 1559 UTC 7 December

EPC Ukraine DX Contest, 20:00 UTC 6 December to 1959 UTC 7 December

AWA Bruce Kelley 1929 QSO Party, 23:00 UTC 6 December to 23:00 UTC 7 December 23:00 UTC, Dec 13 to 23:00 UTC, Dec 14

Ten-Metre RTTY Contest, 00:00 - 24:00 UTC 7 December

SARL Digital Contest, 13:00 - 16:00 UTC 7 December

CQC Great Colorado Snowshoe Run, 21:00 - 22:59 UTC 7 December

History this Week

Week starting 24 November 2014



1621 - Galileo perfects the telescope

1666 - Robert Hooke invented the spirit level.

1783 - Charles and M N Roberts ascend 610 m in a hydrogen balloon at Paris

1834 - Thomas Davenport invented the electric motor

1874 - The first US patent for barbed wire was issued to JF Glidden of DeKalb, Illinois

1877 - The first sound recording made by Thomas Edison

1877 - The next day, Thomas Edison demonstrates the gramophone

1886 - The first commercially successful AC electric power plant opens in Buffalo

1895 - America's first auto race starts with six cars on a route of 88 km; the winner averages 11 km/h

1931 - The Statute of Westminster is accepted

1951 - The first bar of gold is poured in Welkom, Free State. Gold had been discovered here 5 years earlier

1991 - Freddy Mercury passes away



The West Rand Amateur Radio Club is hosting its next flea market at 12:00 on Saturday 29 November 2014 at their clubhouse in Kroton Str, Weltevreden Park, Roodepoort. Everybody is welcome to attend. For more information, contact Noel, ZR6DX, at 082 490 9934.

Items used with acknowledgement to The ARRL Letter, Amateur Radio Newslines, OPDX Bulletin, 425 DX Bulletin, DXNL DX Newsletter, ARRL DX News, WIA-News, the RSGB News, Southgate ARC News, DxCoffee and the Islands, Castles & Portable Operations Bulletin

